



## February 2020 Newsletter

### **Committee members 2020**

Mike Benson	
Tim Bullock	Chairman
Ian Cowdy	Editor – Newsletter, AHAT leader
Stephen Greenaway	Vice Chairman, Spray and swarm liaison.
Clive Harris	Treasurer
Kathy Hobson	Secretary, membership secretary.
Andy Jones	
Nicola Perrett	
Christopher Wilkinson	Website manager

**January's** talk was given by Ann Rowberry on spring management, this was well presented and enjoyed by all. Also a good reminder to those who think they know it all that it can pay to go back over the seemingly obvious basics.

**February's** meeting will be an open forum, please bring anything you like and raise any topic for discussion.

### **The Apiary in February**

What are your bees doing? The lengthening daylight hours and odd warmish spells will have triggered the workers into cleaning and preparing brood cells for the queen to lay in if she hasn't already started. To see what's happening place your mite boards in for 2-3 days then examine the mite board debris. Can you see biscuit coloured wax shredding's? This is from newly hatched workers. Keep feeding if the bees are actively taking fondant or syrup. Clear entrances of dead bees and tidy up around the hives cutting back dead vegetation etc.

### **Asian hornet**

Please keep looking for overwintered queens who may be out foraging on warmer days and or starting primary nests in outbuildings and sheltered places.

Wiltshire are purchasing new supplies of the queen attractant "Sutera" and when available this will be offered to anyone who took advantage of the traps we handed out last year.

### **Training**

The club is running training courses again this year so if you want to or know someone who would like to attend the "Starting beekeeping", "Taster day" or study for the Basic qualification please contact Kathy Hobson asap.

### **Starting Beekeeping**

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Taster days**

May the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Club apiaries.**

Three colonies still going at Park Farm.

The trees at Twigs will probably be shaved back by tree surgeons unless Twigs allow us to move the apiary further up the boundary. The latter saving us approx. £3000.

## Club meetings

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month throughout the year except December. Venue is in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD. Start time 1930 hrs

Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open forum
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Avril Early (Seasonal bee inspector)
Apr 30 <sup>th</sup>	Swarm control
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Open forum and Club Archive
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Geraldine Lenert – Hive Products
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
Aug 27 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
Sep 24 <sup>th</sup>	Honey Show
Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	AGM
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
Dec 10	Skittles evening.

Above list will be subject to change depending on availability of speakers.

## Twigs Open days

April 26 <sup>th</sup>	TWIGS
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	NGS
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	TWIGS
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	NGS
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Apple Fair.

Any suggestions for talks etc. please pass to Kathy Hobson or me.

This Newsletter should be more than a list of events and needs input from members so if you have anything related to beekeeping or something unusual please send to me so it can be included in future newsletters.

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